

What is claimed is:

- 1) A nonwoven batt suitable for use in a molded article comprising: a blend of synthetic and/or natural fibers, and bicomponent fiber, said bicomponent fiber having a low melting portion that is adhesion promoted polyolefin, wherein the sag of a molded non-needlepunched batt, at 91° C is less than 10 mm measured when the weight range of the batt is 1000 to 1200 grams per square meter, cantilevering a distance of 28 cm.
- 2) The batt of claim 1, wherein said synthetic fiber has a modulus of at least 10 cN/tex.
- 3) The batt of claim 2, wherein said synthetic fiber is selected from the class of polyester or polyamide.
- 4) The batt of claim 1, wherein said adhesion promoted polyolefin is maleic anhydride grafted polyethylene.
- 5) The batt of claim 1, wherein said natural fiber is selected from the class of wood pulp, jute, kenaf, wool, cotton or flax.
- 6) The batt of claim 1, wherein said synthetic and/or natural fibers comprise from about 25 - 45 wt % of said batt and said bicomponent fiber comprise from about 55 – 75 wt % of said batt.
- 7) The batt of claim 1, wherein said low melting component of said bicomponent fiber contains filler.
- 8) The batt of claim 7, wherein said filler is carbon black or titanium dioxide.

9) The batt of claim 7, wherein said filler is present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 0.3 weight % of said low melting portion, and said low melting portion is about 50 weight % of said bicomponent fiber.

10) A nonwoven batt suitable for use in a molded article comprising: a non-needlepunched blend of synthetic polyester and/or natural fibers comprising from about 25 - 45 wt % of said batt, and bicomponent fiber comprising from about 55 - 75 wt % of said batt, said bicomponent fiber having a low melting portion that is adhesion promoted polyolefin and said low melting portion is about 50 weight % of said bicomponent fiber.

11) The batt of claim 10, wherein said polyester fiber has a modulus of at least 10 cN/tex.

12) The batt of claim 10, wherein said adhesion promoted polyolefin is maleic anhydride grafted polyethylene.

13) The batt of claim 10, wherein the sag of a molded batt at 91° C is less than 10 mm measured when the weight range of the batt is 1000 to 1200 grams per square meter, cantilevering a distance of 28 cm.

14) A molded article comprising a blend of synthetic and/or natural fibers, and bicomponent fiber, said bicomponent fiber having a low melt portion that is adhesion promoted polyolefin, wherein the sag of the said molded article, non-needlepunched, at 91° C is less than 10 mm measured when the weight range of the batt is 1000 to 1200 grams per square meter, cantilevering a distance of 28 cm.

15) The molded article of claim 14, wherein synthetic and/or natural fibers comprise from about 25 - 45 wt % of said blend and said bicomponent fiber comprise from about 55 - 75 wt % of said blend.

16) The molded article of claim 14, wherein said synthetic fiber is selected from the class of polyester or polyamide.

17) The molded article of claim 14, wherein said adhesion promoted polyolefin is maleic anhydride grafted polyethylene.

18) The molded article of claim 14, wherein said natural fiber is selected from the class of wood pulp, jute, kenaf, wool, cotton or flax.

19) The molded article of claim 14, wherein said synthetic fiber has a modulus of at least 10 cN/tex.

20) The molded article of claim 14, wherein said low melting component of said bicomponent fiber contains filler.

21) The molded article of claim 20, wherein said filler is carbon black or titanium dioxide.

22) The molded article of claim 20, wherein said filler is present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 0.3 weight % of said low melting portion, and said low melting portion is about 50 weight % of said bicomponent fiber.

23) A molded article suitable for use in a vehicle headliner comprising: a blend of synthetic polyester and/or natural fibers comprising from about 25 - 45 wt % of said blend, and bicomponent fiber comprising from about 55 - 75 wt % of said blend, said bicomponent fiber having a low melting portion that is adhesion promoted polyolefin and said low melting portion is about 50 weight % of said bicomponent fiber.

24) The molded article of claim 23, wherein said polyester fiber has a modulus of at least 10 cN/tex.

25) The molded article of claim 23, wherein the sag of the said molded article, non-needlepunched, at 91° C is less than 10 mm measured when the weight range of the batt is 1000 to 1200 grams per square meter, cantilevering a distance of 28 cm.

26) The batt of claim 7, wherein said filler is graphite, talc, metal carbonates and sulfates, other inorganic particles, metal benzoates and stearates, benzoic acid, dibenzylidene sorbitol derivates, titanium dioxide, carbon black, or a mixture of two or more of these.